



USAID | MACEDONIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2 October 2007

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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. COMMITS \$6.8 MILLION AIMED AT STIMULATING ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

An agreement covering several private sector assistance projects worth \$6.8 million has been signed by Michael Eddy, the Acting Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Trajko Slaveski, the Macedonian Minister of Finance. USAID is part of the U.S. mission to Macedonia.

The assistance will be provided by the American people through the USAID to stimulate economic growth and job creation by enhancing the investment climate and addressing trade impediments. The goal is to make it easier and more profitable for both local and international businesses to operate in Macedonia. USAID's e-Gov project is creating more transparency and streamlined governmental processes for businesses. Through USAID's Business Environment Activity project, a legal and regulatory environment conducive to doing business here will be created. Other activities are strategically targeted to increase competitiveness and export potential of key industries, including the agricultural sector, and to stimulate small and medium-sized enterprises and local economies.

Acting USAID Director Eddy noted: "We share a common goal with the Government of Macedonia to achieve economic growth and increased investment in its economy to spark job creation and more economic security for its citizens. We appreciate the strong partnership we have with our counterparts in the Ministry of Finance with whom we engage in constructive collaboration. Under the leadership of Minister Slaveski, the Ministry of Finance has been actively engaged in improving the business climate..."

This assistance builds on U.S. support for fiscal reform and other initiatives aimed at stimulating economic growth in Macedonia.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested almost \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$25 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>